Selection of irrigation projects

563. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state the criteria being adopted by the Union Government for selecting the important irrigation projects for earmarking plan outlays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): In order to ensure meeting with the planned requirements of irrigation sector, outlays are being earmarked for irrigation projects on the basis of following considerations:

(i) early completion of long delayed ongoing schemes;

(ii) projects of inter-State and international aspects;

(iii) externally aided projects; and

(iv) projects of strategic importance such as those benefitting drought and backward area, supply of drinking water etc.

Pakistan visa office at Hyderabad

564. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start Pakistan visa office at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh by Pakistan Embassy; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the probable date by which the office will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have agreed as a special case to the opening of a temporary Pakistan Visa office in Hyderabad for two days each month. The temporary visa office has so far functioned on three occasions, i.e., from the 18th to 19th March, 1987, 20th to 21st July; 1987 and 21st to 22nd September 1987.

Stoppage of Pak nuclear programme by US

565. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whethir Government's attention has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the "Indian Express' dated September 15, 1987, under the Caption "US cannot stop Pak N-Programme';

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to safeguard India's security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have been consistently urging the US Administration to use its influence with Pakistan, and available means under US laws, to deter Pakistan from pursuing the nuclear weapons option. Government are also aware that despite revelations about the non-peaceful and clandestine aspects of Pakistan's nuclear programme, it has benefited from a waiver from US Non-Proliferation laws for many years.

(c) India's defence preparedness is continuously reviewed to meet any eventuality or threat to the counry's security.

Negotiations with UK to amend immigration rules

566. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state·

(a) whether any negotiations have been made between Indian and U.K. to amend the immigration rules; and